

MINIREVIEW

More Extended-Spectrum β -Lactamases

GEORGE A. JACOBY^{1*} AND ANTONE A. MEDEIROS²

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02114,¹ and The Miriam Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island 02906²

INTRODUCTION

Extended-spectrum β -lactamases are plasmid-mediated enzymes that confer resistance to oxyimino- β -lactams such as cefotaxime, ceftazidime, and aztreonam, antibiotics that were designed to be effective against strains producing known plasmid-determined β -lactamases. Extended-spectrum β -lactamases were first recognized in Europe, have become increasingly prevalent there, and are being reported around the world, including many sites in the United States. Since this topic was reviewed in 1989 (68), many more TEM-related extended-spectrum β -lactamases have been described, as have plasmid-mediated β -lactamases which are unrelated to those in the TEM family and which confer resistance to cefoxitin and other cephamycins or to imipenem and other carbapenems, antibiotics that retained activity against strains producing the first extended-spectrum enzymes to be discovered. Treatment of infections caused by strains producing these enzymes remains problematic.

β -LACTAMASE VARIETY

Table 1 lists the extended-spectrum β -lactamases related to TEM-1, TEM-2, or TEM-13, a variant identical to TEM-2 in isoelectric point (pI) and resistance phenotype (44). The 16 extended-spectrum enzymes designated TEM-3 through TEM-19 have been proven to be unique by gene sequencing or oligotyping (44). Such information is not yet available for the second group of 21 TEM-related β -lactamases, which consequently may contain enzymes which duplicate each other or those in the first group. The pIs of extended-spectrum β -lactamases in the TEM family range between 5.1 and 6.5, with considerable clustering at 5.4, 5.55, 5.9, and 6.3. Clearly, isoelectric focusing alone cannot differentiate all the TEM varieties. Inhibition profiles have proven to be a useful adjunct to isoelectric focusing in discriminating the various extended-spectrum β -lactamases (56).

The enzymes vary considerably in the level of resistance conferred to cefotaxime, ceftazidime, or aztreonam. With few exceptions (TEM-3, TEM-4, TEM-20, and TEM-21), the MIC for *Escherichia coli* producing one of these enzymes is much higher with ceftazidime than with cefotaxime. Indeed, some of the enzymes do not increase the cefotaxime MIC at all with a conventional bacterial inoculum (TEM-11, TEM-12, CAZ-3, CAZ-hi, TEM-E1, TEM-E2, and several not yet named). Reported aztreonam resistance also varies from negligible to an MIC above 100 μ g/ml. In such cases, aztreonam or cefotaxime MICs are at most equal to that of ceftazidime but never greater.

Sixteen more extended-spectrum β -lactamases known or believed not to be in the TEM family are listed in Table 2. In view of the diversity of TEM-related enzymes, it is surprising that only four extended-spectrum β -lactamases have been reported as yet in the SHV family. They have pIs ranging from 7.0 to 8.2 and are all potent extended-spectrum enzymes producing MICs for *E. coli* of at least 32 μ g/ml with cefotaxime, ceftazidime, or aztreonam. New on the scene are plasmid-mediated β -lactamases, found in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli*, that confer high-level resistance to cefoxitin and other 7- α -methoxy- β -lactams as well as to oxyimino- β -lactams. To date, such extended-spectrum enzymes have been found in isolates from South Korea, Greece, and Providence, R.I. The MIR-1 enzyme has been most extensively studied (50, 57). Its pI of 8.4, resistance to inhibition by clavulanate, and predominant cephalosporinase activity resemble the properties of chromosomally mediated AmpC-type β -lactamases which, when produced constitutively in organisms such as *Enterobacter cloacae*, are responsible for similar extended-spectrum β -lactam resistance (76). A partial sequence of the MIR-1 gene is, in fact, 90% identical to the sequence of an *ampC* gene from *E. cloacae* (57). CMY-1 and CMY-2 also have pIs similar to those of AmpC-type β -lactamases but are more readily inhibited than MIR-1 by clavulanate or sulbactam (8, 9). Whether they have a derivation similar to that of MIR-1 remains to be established.

An even more disturbing plasmid-mediated β -lactamase has been found in a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolate from Japan (90). This enzyme confers resistance to imipenem and meropenem as well as to carbenicillin, ceftazidime, and moxalactam. It is a clavulanate-resistant metalloenzyme with an exceptionally broad substrate spectrum that includes carbapenems, oxyiminocephalosporins, and 7- α -methoxy- β -lactams and thus belongs in the same family as chromosomally mediated imipenem-hydrolyzing enzymes from *Xanthomonas maltophilia* or *Bacteroides fragilis*. Its spread will be watched with interest.

Several of the other extended-spectrum enzymes listed in Table 2 have properties that suggest derivation from an AmpC-type source. BIL-1 (pI 8.8), FEC-1 (pI 8.2), and MEN-1 (pI 8.4) are also predominantly cephalosporinases. BIL-1 is resistant as well to clavulanate inhibition, yet none of these enzymes is reported to confer cephamycin resistance. The molecular mass of FEC-1 (48 kDa) is also atypical for an AmpC-type β -lactamase. FUR was so named for its ability to hydrolyze and confer resistance to cefuroxime. Its pI (7.5) suggests a relationship to the SHV enzymes, which also confer high-level cefuroxime resistance (30), but FUR-related MICs are otherwise unlike those related to SHV-type extended-spectrum β -lactamases. DNA sequencing will be necessary to settle phylogeny in this heterogeneous group.

* Corresponding author.

TABLE 1. Extended-spectrum β -lactamases in the TEM family

β -Lactamase	Species	Country of origin	Yr of first isolation (I) or report (R)	pl	MIC ^a of:			Reference(s)
					Cefotaxime	Ceftazidime	Aztreonam	
Parental types								
TEM-1	<i>E. coli</i>	Greece	1963 (I)	5.4	0.125	0.25	0.125	23
TEM-2	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	England	1969 (I)	5.6	0.125	0.5	0.25	43
TEM-13	<i>M. morganii</i>	^b	1990 (R)	5.6				44
Proven unique								
TEM-3 (CTX-1)	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1984 (I)	6.3	32	64	16	14, 79
TEM-4	<i>E. coli</i>	France	1986 (I)	5.9	32	32	16	58
TEM-5 (CAZ-1)	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1987 (I)	5.55	4	128	8	66
TEM-6	<i>E. coli</i>	Germany	1987 (R)	5.9	1	128	64	8
TEM-7	<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	France	1988 (R)	5.41	0.5	64	2	27
TEM-8	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>		1989 (R)	5.9				44
TEM-9 (RHH-1)	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	England	1987 (R)	5.5	2	128	128	84
TEM-10	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1989 (R)	5.57	1	64	32	72
TEM-11 (CAZ-lo)	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Belgium	1989 (R)	5.7	0.06	4	0.25	89
TEM-12	<i>E. coli</i>	United States	1987 (R)	5.25	0.06	4	0.25	91
TEM-14	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	^b	1990 (R)	6.3				44
TEM-15	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	^b	1990 (R)	6.0				44
TEM-16	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	^b	1990 (R)	6.3				44
TEM-17	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	^b	1990 (R)	5.9				44
TEM-18	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	^b	1990 (R)	6.3				44
TEM-19	<i>E. coli</i>	^b	1990 (R)	5.4				44
Not yet proven unique								
CAZ-2	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1987 (I)	6.0	2	128	16	78
CAZ-3	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1987 (I)	5.3	0.12	16	1	78
CAZ-6	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1988 (I)	6.5	8	512	128	19
CAZ-7	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1988 (I)	6.3	4	256	64	19
CAZ-hi	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Belgium	1989 (R)	6.5	0.25	32	8	89
MGH-1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.55	2	512	64	31
MRH-1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1990 (R)	5.44	S	R	S	71
TEM-20	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Tunisia	1990 (R)	5.4	4	2	1	11
TEM-21	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Tunisia	1990 (R)	6.4	8	8	4	11
TEM-E1	<i>E. coli</i>	Belgium	1987 (I)	5.41	0.13	32	0.13	62
TEM-E2 ^c	<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	England	1982 (I)	5.3	0.25	32	1	63
TEM-E3 ^d	<i>E. coli</i>	England	1989 (R)	5.55	1	125	32	60
TEM-E4	^e	Belgium	^e	5.61	<1	16		59
YOU-1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.57	1	256	32	73
YOU-2	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.2	0.5	64	8	73
Not named	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.25	≤ 0.5	>64	>64	80
Not named	<i>E. cloacae</i>	England	1986 (I)	5.7-5.9	<0.5	16		22
Not named	<i>E. coli</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.2	S	R	S	49
Not named	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1987 (I)	^f	S	R	S	49
Not named	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.35	S	R	S	49
Not named	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	5.1	S	R	S	49

^a MICs are generally given for *E. coli* transconjugants producing the given β -lactamase. Some were determined in a uniform genetic background (30), but most were determined by a variety of techniques that may make them not closely comparable. When no values are given, data are not available. R, resistant, level unspecified; S, susceptible.

^b Strains producing these enzymes originated in France, Belgium, England, Chile, and Germany, but the exact country of origin for each has not yet been reported (44).

^c Reported to be identical to CAZ-3 (59).

^d Reported to be identical to TEM-10 (59).

^e Not specified.

^f No β -lactamase bands were visualized on isoelectric focusing.

and to establish whether some of these enzymes are derived from the many other known plasmid-determined β -lactamases (48).

MOLECULAR BASIS OF THE EXTENDED SPECTRUM

TEM-1 differs from TEM-2 by a functionally silent Gln \rightarrow Lys substitution at position 37 which serves to differentiate between the extended-spectrum enzymes derived from TEM-1 and the less prevalent TEM-2. The recently recognized variant TEM-13 has an additional Thr \rightarrow Met

change at position 261 which also does not affect the substrate spectrum (44). The amino acid alterations in TEM-3 to TEM-19 are shown in Table 3 and involve substitutions at five other sites. TEM-4 and TEM-9 also have a silent Leu \rightarrow Phe alteration in the leader peptide at position 19 which is excised in processing the mature enzymes.

The amino acid sequences of 10 enzymes in the SHV family have been determined or can be deduced from nucleotide sequencing. A Thr-Ala at positions 117 and 118 (numbered as in TEM for consistency) was initially proposed for SHV-1 from plasmid p453 (4), but the order of this pair is

TABLE 2. Extended-spectrum β -lactamases not related to TEM

β -Lactamase	Species	Country of origin	Yr of first isolation (I) or report (R)	pI	MIC ^a of:					Inhibition by clavulanate	Reference(s)
					Cefotaxime	Ceftazidime	Aztreonam	Cefoxitin	Imipenem		
SHV derivatives											
SHV-1	<i>E. coli</i>	Switzerland	1974 (R)	7.6	0.125	1	0.5	16	0.5	+	47
SHV-2	<i>K. ozaenae</i>	Germany	1983 (I)	7.6	64	32	32	16	0.5	+	37
SHV-3	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1986 (I)	7.0	64	32	32	16	0.25	+	69
SHV-4 (CAZ-5)	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	France	1987 (I)	7.75	128	128	256	16	0.25	+	15
SHV-5 (CAZ-4)	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Chile	1987 (I)	8.2	64	128	256	8	0.25	+	26
Responsible for cephamycin resistance											
CMY-1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	South Korea	1989 (R)	8.0	64	4	16	256	0.25	±	6
CMY-2	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Greece	1990 (R)	8.1	32	128	64	256	0.25	±	9
MIR-1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	8.4	64	128	128	≥256	1	—	50, 57
<i>E. coli</i>											
Responsible for carbapenem resistance											
Not named	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	Japan	1988 (I)	9.0	NR	400	3	NR	12.5	—	90
Not further differentiated											
BIL-1	<i>E. coli</i>	Pakistan	1989 (I)	8.8	16	64	NR	NR	NR	—	59, 92
CTX-M	<i>E. coli</i>	Germany	1989 (I)	8.9	16	2	8	4	NR	+	7
DJP-1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	India	1988 (I)	7.9	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	+	59, 61
FEC-1	<i>E. coli</i>	Japan	1988 (R)	8.2	200	12.5	25	2	0.8	+	46
FUR	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	Belgium	1989 (R)	7.5	1	2	16	2	0.25	+	89
MEN-1	<i>E. coli</i>	France	1990 (R)	8.4	R	NR	NR	S	S	+	12
Not named	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	7.65	S	R	R	S	S	+	49
Not named	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	United States	1988 (I)	7.0, 7.8 ^b	S ^c	S	S	S	S	+	49

^a NR, not reported; R, resistant; S, susceptible.^b Which β -lactamase is responsible for resistance has not been established.^c Although testing susceptible with a zone size of 23 mm around a ceftazidime disk, the zone diameter was 35 mm in the presence of 10 μ g of clavulanate per ml, indicating the presence of a weak extended-spectrum β -lactamase.

reversed in all subsequently determined sequences. With this correction, the amino acid sequences of SHV-2 from *E. coli* A2302 (2), *K. pneumoniae* 5214773 (41), and *Klebsiella ozaenae* 2180 (29) are identical and differ from that of SHV-1 by a Gly \rightarrow Ser substitution at position 236. Similarly, the sequences of SHV-3 (53), SHV-4 (64), and SHV-5 (13) differ from this common SHV-2 sequence only at the positions shown in Table 3. However, the sequence of SHV-2 from *Salmonella typhimurium* 122 has a Leu \rightarrow Gln at position 31 (25), and another sequence of SHV-2 from *K. ozaenae* 2180 has a silent Leu \rightarrow Trp change at position 17 in the leader peptide (70). Finally, the reported sequence of SHV-1 from *Klebsiella* sp. plasmid R974 has 6 amino acid differences from the sequences of the other SHV enzymes (51).

Assuming that the amino acid changes at positions 102, 162, 203, 235, 236, and 237 modify enzyme function, TEM-7, TEM-12, TEM-17, TEM-18, TEM-19, and SHV-2 have undergone a single amino acid alteration. TEM-3, TEM-4, TEM-6, TEM-9, TEM-10, TEM-11, TEM-14, TEM-15, TEM-16, SHV-3, and SHV-5 have two substitutions, and TEM-5, TEM-8, and SHV-4 have three changes (44). Although these modifications occur far from the critical serine residue at position 68 (position 66 for SHV-type β -lactamases), if the known three-dimensional structure of the class A β -lactamase of *Staphylococcus aureus* is used as a model (28), then the amino acid alterations in the TEM- and SHV-type extended-spectrum β -lactamases are located in

the walls of a crevice with serine 68 at its base (82). More efficient substrate binding can be pictured as the result of new hydrogen bonding and electrostatic interactions allowed by the lysine and serine substitutions or changes in the conformation of the hydrophobic cleft in the active site (38, 40, 83). Whether the AmpC-type extended-spectrum β -lactamases also have undergone substitutions to increase their efficiency with certain substrates remains to be established.

The TEM- and SHV-type β -lactamases pay a price, however, for their extended spectrum in terms of activity. Kinetic analysis indicates that the native TEM enzyme has evolved to near-optimum efficiency (20). Compared with the parental types, extended-spectrum β -lactamases have considerably lower activities either in crude cell extracts (30) or after partial purification (16).

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF RESISTANCE

Extended-spectrum enzymes were first recognized in Europe in 1983 but have since been reported in many countries (Table 4). Undoubtedly, where they have been found largely reflects where they have been looked for. Despite the great variety discovered in France (Table 1), outside France a much more limited group has been detected. SHV-2 (10 locales), SHV-5 (6 locales), TEM-12 or enzymes compatible with TEM-12 (5 locales), and TEM-10 or compatible en-

TABLE 3. Molecular basis of extended-spectrum activity

β -Lactamase	Amino acid at position ^a :								Reference
	37	102	162	203	235	236	237	261	
TEM-1	Gln	Glu	Arg	Gln	Ala	Gly	Glu	Thr	85
TEM-2	Lys								3
TEM-13	Lys						Met		44
TEM-3	Lys	Lys			Ser				81
TEM-4		Lys			Ser		Met		44
TEM-5			Ser		Thr		Lys		82
TEM-6			His						44
TEM-7	Lys		Ser						21
TEM-8	Lys	Lys	Ser			Ser			44
TEM-9			Ser				Met		44
TEM-10			Ser				Lys		39
TEM-11	Lys		His			b			44
TEM-12			Ser						44
TEM-14	Lys	Lys			Ser		Met		44
TEM-15		Lys			Ser				44
TEM-16	Lys	Lys	His						44
TEM-17			Lys						44
TEM-18	Lys	Lys							44
TEM-19					Ser				44
SHV-1	Gln	Asp	Arg	Arg	Ala	Gly	Glu	Leu	4
SHV-2						Ser			2
SHV-3				Leu		Ser			53
SHV-4				Leu		Ser	Lys		64
SHV-5						Ser	Lys		13

^a Amino acid residues are numbered as described by Sutcliffe for TEM-1 (85) and should be numbered two less for SHV-1. The residue at position 37 for TEM enzymes defines which are derived from TEM-1 and which are derived from TEM-2. For SHV-1, all the amino acid residues analogous to those shown for TEM-1 are given. For other sequences, only amino acids which differ from those of TEM-1 or SHV-1 are indicated.

^b Substitution not yet known.

zymes (4 locales) lead the list in frequency. The distribution of particular β -lactamases suggests pockets of local dissemination with limited wide-range spread. For example, the TEM-related extended-spectrum enzymes first recognized in France have yet to be reported in North America, while TEM-10, TEM-12, and related enzymes, which have been found in several cities in the United States, have been rare or absent in continental Europe.

In France, the prevalence of strains producing extended-spectrum β -lactamases is increasing (86). The frequencies of *K. pneumoniae* isolates with extended-spectrum β -lactamases were 0.75% in 1985, 8.4% in 1987, and 11% in 1988, and there has been a similar increase in the number of hospitals with such isolates. Nosocomial outbreaks due to strains producing such β -lactamases have been reported in Paris (58 patients) (1), Cambridge, Mass. (29 patients) (73), and Providence, R.I. (11 patients) (57).

K. pneumoniae is by far the most common species in which these enzymes have been recognized (Tables 1 and 2). Why this should be so is not yet clear. The level of resistance produced by extended-spectrum β -lactamases in *K. pneumoniae* is not conspicuously higher than that in *E. coli* or other gram-negative organisms (35).

Plasmids responsible for extended-spectrum β -lactamase production tend to be large (80 kb or more in size) and to carry resistance to several agents (32, 67, 80, 88), an important limitation in the design of treatment alternatives. Curiously, except for one brief report (33), none of these enzymes has been shown to be transposable (32). The usual transmissibility of the responsible plasmids, however, allows resistance to spread readily to other pathogens, so that

TABLE 4. Isolation of extended-spectrum β -lactamases related to TEM or SHV outside of France

Location	β -Lactamase	pI	Reference(s)
Africa			
Senegal	SHV-2	7.6	75
Tunisia	SHV-2	7.6	10
	TEM-3	6.3	10
	TEM-20	5.4	10
	TEM-21	6.4	10
Central America			
Caribbean	TEM-3	6.3	67
North America			
Boston, Mass.	MGH-1	5.55	31
	SHV-4	7.75	34
	TEM-12	5.2	33
Cambridge, Mass.	YOU-1	5.57	73
	YOU-2	5.2	73
Charleston, S.C.	Not named	7.65	49
	Not named	7.0, 7.7	49
Chicago, Ill.	MRH-1	5.44	71
	TEM-10	5.57	72
Cleveland, Ohio	Not named	5.2	49
	SHV-2	7.6	87
Cincinnati, Ohio	TEM-12	5.25	91
Fort Sam Houston, Tex.	Not named	5.25	80
Oklahoma City, Okla.	Not named	"	49
St. Louis, Mo.	Not named	5.35	49
	Not named	5.1	49
Toronto, Ontario, Canada	TEM-10	Not given	39
South America			
Argentina	Not named	6.0	18
	SHV-2	7.6	18
	SHV-5	8.2	42
Chile	SHV-2	7.6	31
	SHV-5	8.2	26
Australia, Perth	SHV-2	7.6	52
	SHV-5	8.2	52
Europe			
Belgium	CAZ-hi	6.5	89
	TEM-11	5.7	89
	TEM-E1	5.4	62
	TEM-E4	5.61	59
England	SHV-2 ^b	7.6	77
	SHV-5 ^c	8.2	77
	TEM-9	5.5	84
	TEM-10 (TEM-E3)	5.57	59, 60
	TEM-E2	5.3	63
	Not named	5.7-5.9	22
Germany	SHV-2	7.6	37
	TEM-6	5.9	8
Greece	SHV-2	7.6	31, 88
	SHV-5	8.2	55, 88
Spain	TEM-6	5.9	45
Far East			
China	SHV-2	7.6	31
Singapore	SHV-5	8.2	52

^a No β -lactamase bands were visualized on isoelectric focusing.

^b Isolated from a patient in Egypt.

^c Isolated from a patient in Greece.

TABLE 5. Options for treatment of β -lactam-resistant strains

Enzyme or mechanism	Clinical isolates	β -Lactams affected	β -Lactams not affected ^a
Common plasmid-mediated β -lactamase	Many gram-negative organisms	Ampicillin, azlocillin, carbencillin, cefamandole, cephalothin, mezlocillin, piperacillin, ticarcillin	Cefotetan, cefoxitin, extended-spectrum cephalosporins, moxalactam, carbapenems, monobactams
Plasmid-mediated extended-spectrum β -lactamase in TEM or SHV family	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>C. freundii</i> , <i>S. marcescens</i> , <i>E. cloacae</i>	Above-listed drugs plus aztreonam, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, ceftizoxime, ceftriaxone, cefuroxime	Cefmetazole, cefotetan, cefoxitin, imipenem, moxalactam
Constitutive production of chromosomal β -lactamase	<i>E. cloacae</i> , <i>C. freundii</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. marcescens</i>	Above-listed drugs plus cefmetazole, cefotetan, cefoxitin, moxalactam	Imipenem
Plasmid-mediated extended-spectrum β -lactamase related to AmpC	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	Above-listed drugs	Imipenem
Carbapenem-hydrolyzing chromosomal β -lactamase	<i>X. maltophilia</i> , <i>B. fragilis</i> , <i>S. marcescens</i> , <i>E. cloacae</i>	Imipenem	Variable
Plasmid-mediated β -lactamase conferring carbapenem resistance	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	Above-listed drugs	Aztreonam, piperacillin

^a Investigational drugs have not been included.

extended-spectrum enzymes have been found in *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Levinea malonatica*, *Morganella morganii*, *Salmonella* spp., and *Serratia marcescens*, in addition to the species listed in Tables 1 and 2 (65, 67). Molecular analysis demonstrated that the spread of TEM-3 in France to a variety of host bacteria involved a single epidemic plasmid that in the course of time itself underwent minor modifications (65). In other outbreaks, related plasmids from isolates at a single hospital encoded different extended-spectrum enzymes (19, 73), as though sequential mutations were occurring in a common β -lactamase gene.

TREATMENT OF RESISTANT INFECTIONS

Some infections due to organisms testing resistant to ceftazidime but susceptible to cefotaxime or ceftriaxone have responded to treatment with these alternate cephalosporins (14, 72, 73, 80). However, the MICs of these agents rise dramatically as the inoculum is increased (17, 24, 74), and in animal model infections treatment with cefotaxime (74) or ceftriaxone (24) has failed despite serum antibiotic levels far in excess of the MIC at the conventional 10⁵ organisms per ml. The addition of a β -lactamase inhibitor such as sulbactam lowers the MIC in vitro but has been of only marginal benefit in animal model infections (17, 24, 74). Furthermore, the MICs of currently available β -lactamase inhibitor- β -lactam combinations are quite high, especially for strains producing enzymes of the SHV family (5, 30). Strains making TEM- or SHV-related β -lactamases remain fully susceptible to cephamycins and to carbapenems, but the presence of a β -lactamase does not prevent other mechanisms of resistance from emerging. For example, cefoxitin treatment of a patient with pneumonia caused by a TEM-3-producing strain of *K. pneumoniae* failed when the strain became cefoxitin resistant, apparently by the loss of outer membrane porins mediating cefoxitin permeability (54).

β -Lactams that can still be used for therapy despite the presence of various kinds of β -lactamases are listed in Table

5, which omits investigational drugs, some of which are effective in vitro against organisms making particular extended-spectrum β -lactamases (30, 36). Future drug development will need to take these enzymes in all their variety into account.

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